series of measures to revitalise Cooperatives at grass root level. These include:

(i) Initiating the Business Development planning for Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies;

(ii) Strengthening the role of Federal Cooperatives in relation to Primary Cooperative Societies;

(iii) Supporting of self help efforts of the Cooperatives;

(iv) Efforts to make Cooperative Sector democratic and functionally independent;

(v) Strengthening the training of Cooperative Personnel to make the Cooperatives professionalised and improve their working;

(vi) Steps have been initiated to replace the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 on the lines of the recommendations made by the Committee appointed to suggest a 'Model Cooperative Act' and formulation of a National Policy on Cooperatives.

(b) to (d) A proposal to enlarge scope of activities of National Cooperative Development Corporation by amending the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962 is under consideration of the Government. The proposal includes coverage of live stock products, poultry feed, industrial goods, products, of cottage and village industry, handicraft and allied industries etc.

Plans for drought prone areas of Orissa

6573. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated for drought prone areas of Kalahandi, Koraput, and Bolangir districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of plans and programmes; and

(c) the details of the plans and steps taken to implement the plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) A Drought Prone Areas Programme is being implemented in identified areas in the country. Under this programme, the identified areas are developed on watershed basis by undertaking core activities namely, land and watershed development, afforestation and pasture development for mitigating the adverse effects of drought on crops and livestock in the long-run. 8 Blocks in the district of Bolangir and 11 Blocks in Kalahandi have been identified as drought prone under this programme. No Block has been covered under this programme in the district of Koraput since it is not identified as drought prone.

Marine and fisheries research

6574. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Marine/Fisheries research is not related to the Agricultural research and the ICAR;

(b) if so, whether Government are likely to create a separate National Organisation to control and guide the research by the existing different research institutes; and

(c) the details of the existing Marine/Fisheries Research institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Marine fisheries is considered under the Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) system.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) The institutes related to marine/fisheries research under the ICAR are as follows:

(i) Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Cochin established in 1947.